

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06018 301352Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

EUR-12 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06

AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15

/130 W

-----113286 301843Z /45

R 301331Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9476

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1080

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD

COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 2

REF: STATE 191312

1. LEAD AGENCY FOR SAG IN CONSIDERING UNCTAD ISSUES HAS IN PAST BEEN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SAUDI BUREAUCRACY IS SO AMORPHOUS HOWEVER THAT WE ARE USUALLY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY IF OR WHERE FORMAL INTER-MINISTERIAL POSITIONS ARE ADOPTED, OR HOW CLOSELY SAUDI DELEGATES ARE BOUND BY THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. WE KNOW THAT, IN PAST, SAUDI DELEGATES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY IN INTERPRETING THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, AND ADVISED PRIMARILY TO STAY CLOSE TO ARAB GROUP AND GROUP-77 CONSENSUS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. SAG, NONETHELESS, INCREASINGLY HAS DIRECT INTERESTS IN ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND HAS BEGUN TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN UNCTAD TYPE FORA. AS RESULT, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT SAG IS ATTEMPTING TO TIGHTEN

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UP ITS INTERNAL COORDINATION, BUT PRESENT HAPHAZARD AND ELEVENTH-HOUR METHODS OF REACHING POSITIONS AND INSTRUCTING DELEGATES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE SAG MODUS OPERANDI.

2. UPSHOT OF ABOVE IS THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO INFLUENCE SAG POSITIONS ON SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE OR

TACTICAL ISSUES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF DELEGATIONS. WE WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN USG POSITIONS THROUGH OUR REGULAR CONTACTS, BUT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SAUDI DELEGATIONS AT CONFERENCES.

3. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS WELCOME VISIT BY EXPERT ON UNCTAD AND COMMON FUND ISSUES. SAG IS LIKELY TO BE HEAVY CONTRIBUTOR TO ANY SPECIAL FUND (THROUGH OPEC FUND AND PERHAPS OTHERWISE), AND FULL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES HERE COULD IMPROVE SAG UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS DELEGATION. VISIT WOULD ALSO SUPPORT OUR GOAL OF ENGAGING SAG MORE IN DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE ISSUES. WE BELIEVE VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL ANY TIME UP TO OCTOBER 20 AND PERHAPS THE LATER THE BETTER; SAG, ITSELF, UNLIKELY TO ADDRESS ISSUE SERIOUSLY MUCH BEFORE THEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA06018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0796
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 191312
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1688564
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 2
TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed47e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009